

## **Anthony Butler to Andrew Jackson, August 30, 1832, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

### **COLONEL ANTHONY BUTLER TO JACKSON.**

Mexico City, August 30, 1832.

. . . . Three of the new Cabinet have been appointed, Francis Fagoaga for the department of home and foreign Affairs, Ignacio *Alas* for the Treasury, (a very ominous name you will say) and John Ignacio Godoy for the department of Grace and Justice—that of War and Marine not yet filled. I am much pleased that the Department of State has been conferred on Mr. Fagoaga, he is a Gentleman of Education and talents with manners extremely courteous, and though connected with the high Aristocracy of the Country (being brother to the Ex Marquis of Apartado) has ever displayed great liberality in his political opinions and especially towards foreigners. I have been on the most friendly terms with him since our first acquaintance, and resided for 12 months in a house adjoining his with the best opportunities of cultivating his acquaintance. When I called to pay my respects on his taking Office he was alone, and entertained me for half an hour with Eulogiums on the U. States, its government, institutions, Commerce, Manufactures enterprise, skill, wealth etc etc., and concluded thus—Sir you are the happiest people in the world, and the most prosperous, you are out of Debt, you are at peace, enterprise and industry is protected encouraged and rewarded. No Civil wars distract your Community and waste private property—your Laws are in full vigour, faithfully administered, and afford ample protection to personal rights; I should feel proud to be called a Citizen of the U. States, and I don't know but I [may] yet become one. Unfortunately Mexico exhibits the contrast of all this, and no one can say when we shall change for the better. All this was so unexpected, and so directly and highly complimentary that I was somewhat embarrassed how to reply—

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it was proper to say something however, and my reply was directed to the sky and the soil, and not to the Men or their institutions. I spoke of the happy position of Mexico, its delightful climate, embracing all the varieties of temperature requisite for the production of the most valuable Commercial staples, its Cochineal, Coffee, Sugar, Tobacco, Rice, Wheat, Indigo and Cotton, the certainty which such advantages presented of their attaining elevated rank in the great Community of Nations, so soon as their party differences could be reconciled, tranquillity restored to the Country, and a proper direction given to their resources and industry—that I hoped this period would soon arrive, and that hope I must add was greatly heightened since the interior as well as foreign Concerns of the Nation had been placed under his control. He appeared gratified at my concluding observation, and I clearly perceived that the Compliment to himself told well. He rejoined that he had no taste for Office, it was the first he had ever held, and that in accepting his present appointment he had made great sacrifices, but he had done so notwithstanding, in the hope that he might aid in producing the State of things to which I had referred, that so soon as he could perceive his efforts at conciliation would be unavailing he should retire, and in the event of being so happy as to succeed in tranquillising the Country he should still retire. And thus our first Official interview after a little common place, concluded in very good humor.

I shall use the first proper occasion to enquire after my Official Note on the subject of the New boundary, and endeavour to ascertain his opinions on that question—in this I may be aided by Mr. Alaman who is on the best terms with Mr. Fagoagoa . . . .